

ABSTRACTS

Editorial Comment: A fixed style of presentation for this department of ANESTHESIOLOGY has purposely not been defined. It is the wish of the Editorial Board to provide our readers with the type of abstract they desire. Correspondence is invited offering suggestions in regard to the length of abstracts, character of them, and source of them. The Board will appreciate the cooperation of the membership of the Society in submitting abstracts of outstanding articles to be considered for publication.

STEWART, JOHN D.; KENNEDY, PAUL A., AND HALE, HARRY W.: *A Study of Systolic Blood Pressure and Pulse Rate in Traumatic Shock*, Surg., Gynec., & Obst. 85: 453-455 (Oct.) 1947.

Values for systolic blood pressure and pulse rate in 204 freshly gravely wounded soldiers have been examined. In non-fatal as well as fatal cases the systolic blood pressure under restorative therapy tended to rise toward normal, whereas the pulse rate tended to rise away from normal.

Coefficients of correlation between systolic blood pressure and pulse rate are shown to be quite low, both before and after restorative therapy and surgical operation. Systolic blood pressure appeared to have more prognostic value than pulse rate, though both showed more deviation from the normal in fatal cases than in the group as a whole.

Systolic blood pressure and pulse rate in traumatic shock should be considered as representing a momentary effect of varied and compound physiological reactions. The frequency of exceptional values indicates that these two factors require caution in the evaluation of the state of traumatic shock. 2 references.

M. F. P.

WOLF, ALBERT M.; MASON, JACK; FITZPATRICK, WILLIAM J.; SCHWARTZ, STEVEN O., AND LEVINSON, SIDNEY O.: *Ultraviolet Irradiation of Human*

Plasma to Control Homologous Serum Jaundice. J.A.M.A. 135: 476-477 (Oct. 25) 1947.

The agent of infectious hepatitis, believed to be a virus, has been the cause of hepatitis in recipients of human blood and plasma. Despite the careful selection of donors, the administration of human blood products carries with it a potential hazard of hepatitis. In the absence of a satisfactory method or test for recognizing and excluding such infected blood, it is desirable that all human blood plasma and serum be treated to destroy the virus and protect the recipient from the hazard.

A new method of rapidly sterilizing suspension of bacteria and viruses consists essentially of exposing rapidly flowing, thin films of liquid for fractions of a second to a new and powerful source of ultraviolet emitting intense radiation of 2537 angstrom and 1849 angstrom wavelengths.

The data presented in this paper is a preliminary report of studies to determine whether irradiated plasma is free of side effects from irradiation, and whether it is satisfactory for human use. It is concluded tentatively that controlled ultraviolet irradiation would appear to be a practical, yet harmless and safe, procedure, which will free plasma or serum from the hazard of transmitting infectious hepatitis. 4 references.

M. F. P.